

# THE TWO PLATFORMS COMPARED

## Preamble

### DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

We, the representatives of the democracy of the United States, in national convention assembled, reaffirm our belief in, and pledge our loyalty to, the principles of the party.

We rejoice at the increasing signs of an awakening throughout the country. The various investigations have traced graft and political corruption to the representatives of predatory wealth, and laid bare the unscrupulous methods by which they have debauched elections and preyed upon a defenseless public through the subservient officials whom they have raised to place and power.

The conscience of the nation is now aroused to free the government from the grip of those who have made it a business asset of the favor-seeking corporations; it must become again a people's government, and be administered in all its departments according to the Jeffersonian maxim of "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

"Shall the people rule?" is the overshadowing issue which manifests itself in all the questions now under discussion.

### REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

Once more the republican party, in national convention assembled, submits its cause to the people. This great historic organization, that destroyed slavery, preserved the union, restored credit, expanded the national domain, established a sound financial system, developed the industries and resources of the country and gave to the nation her seat of honor in the councils of the world, now meets the new problems of government with the same courage and capacity with which it solved the old.

In this, the greatest era of American advancement, the republican party has reached its highest service under the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt. His administration is an epoch in American history. In no other period since national sovereignty was won under Washington or preserved under Lincoln has there been such mighty progress in these ideals of government which make for justice, equality and fair dealing among men. The highest aspirations of the American people have found a voice. Their most exalted servant represents the best aims and worthiest purposes of all his countrymen. American manhood has been lifted to a nobler sense of duty and obligation. Conscience and courage in public station and higher standards of right and wrong in private life have become cardinal principles of political faith; capital and labor have been brought into closer relations of confidence and interdependence; and the abuse of wealth, the tyranny of power and all the evils of privileges and favoritism have been put to scorn by the simple, manly virtues of justice and fair play.

The great accomplishments of President Roosevelt have been, first and foremost, a brave and impartial enforcement of the law; the prosecution of illegal trusts and monopolies; the exposure and punishment of evil-doers in the public service; the more effective regulation of the rates and the service of the great transportation lines; the complete overthrow of preferences, rebates and discriminations; the arbitration of labor disputes, the amelioration of wage-workers everywhere; the conservation of the national resources of the country; the forward step in the improvement of the inland waterways; and always the earnest support and defense of every wholesome safeguard which has made more secure the guarantee of life, liberty and property.

These are the achievements that will make for Theodore Roosevelt his place in history, but more than all else the great things he has done will be an inspiration to those who have yet greater things to do. We declare our unfaltering adherence to the policies thus inaugurated, and pledge their continuance under a republican administration of the government.

Under the guidance of republican principles the American people have become the richest nation in the world. Our wealth today exceeds that of England and all her colonies, and that of France and Germany combined. When the republican party was born the total wealth of the country was \$16,000,000,000. It has leaped to \$110,000,000,000 in a generation, while Great Britain has gathered but \$60,000,000,000 in five hundred years. The United States now owns one-fourth of the world's wealth and makes one-third of all modern manufactured products. In the greatness of civilization, such as coal, the motive power of all activity, iron, the chief basis of all industry; cotton, the staple foundation of all fabrics; wheat, corn and all agricultural products that feed mankind, America's supremacy is undisputed. And yet her great natural wealth has been scarcely touched.

We have a vast domain of three million square miles, literally bursting with latent treasure, still waiting the magic of capital and industry to be converted to the practical uses of mankind; a country rich in soil and climate, in the unharnessed energy of its rivers and in all the varied products of the field, the forest and the factory.

With gratitude for God's bounty, with pride in the splendid productiveness of the past, and with confidence in the plenty and prosperity of the future, the republican party declares for the principle that in the development and enjoyment of wealth so great and blessings so benign there shall be equal opportunities for all.

## Officeholders

### DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Coincident with the enormous increase in the expenditures is a like addition to the number of officeholders. During the past year

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